

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08055 101821Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NRC-07 FEA-01 ACDA-10

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R 101630Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8141

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

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DEPT. PASS NRC

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR DISCUSSION
IN GERMANY

REF: A. BONN 7735; B. BONN 6953; C. BONN A-125

1. SUMMARY: RECENT EVENTS SHOW THAT THE FUTURE OF
NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE FRG IS HIGHLY UNPREDICTABLE,
BUT IT CAN BE CONCLUDED THAT EARLIER ASSESSMENTS
PROVED RIGHT THAT IN THE AMBITIOUS GOALS OF
GERMANY'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM - EVEN IN ITS REVISED
FORM (REF C) - WILL NOT BE REACHED. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT STATEMENTS BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY
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COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOW A
SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT INTONATION THAN EARLIER
GOVERNMENT REMARKS THAT GERMANY HAD AN ADEQUATE
SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF
1980 (REF A). THE TESTIMONY OF THE NUCLEAR EXPERTS
POINTED TO THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR URANIUM FOR
WHICH DELIVERY WAS NOT GUARANTEED DUE TO THE

RESTRICTIVE POLICY OF URANIUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES,
ESPECIALLY CANADA.

3. A DECISION OF THE UPPER ADMINISTRATIVE COURT
IN KOBLENZ RULED THAT AT CONSTRUCTION OF THE
1300-EMW REACTOR AT MUEHLKEIM-KAERLICH COULD BE
CONTINUED UNTIL A FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE
ABOUT THE OBJECTIONS AGAINST THE LEGALITY OF THE
CONSTRUCTION. A PRIVATE CITIZEN HAD INTERVENED
ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CONSTRUCTION
INCORPORATED CERTAIN ADDITIONAL SAFETY RELEVANT
FEATURES THAT WERE NOT PART OF THE INITIALLY
APPROVED DESIGN AND THEREFORE REQUIRED A NEW
LICENSING PROCEDURE. SUBSEQUENTLY, A LOWER COURT
HAD RULED A PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION HALT. THE
DECISION OF THE UPPER COURT IN KOBLENZ WILL NOT
PRECLUDE AN ACTUAL COURT DECISION ABOUT THE
OBJECTION IN THE FUTURE.

4. ON MAY 6 THE CONFERENCE OF THE FRG STATE MINISTER
PRESIDENTS STATED ITS INTENTION NOT TO ISSUE ANY
MORE LICENSES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR
POWER PLANTS UNLESS THE SAFE MANAGEMENT OF SPENT
FUEL ELEMENTS HAD BEEN PROVED. ACCORDING TO THE
MINISTER PRESIDENT OF BAVARIA, THE MAJORITY OF THE
STATE (LAENDER) CHIEFS DID NOT WANT TO PUT ANY
MORE OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,
ALTHOUGH A MINORITY - THE STATES OF NORTH-RHINE
WESTPHALIA AND BREMEN ARE GOING TO TAKE A HARD
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LINE STANCE. THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT THE
MAJORITY OF THE LAENDER WILL RESUME NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT LICENSING AS SOON AS THE FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR EXAMINATION OF
THE SAFETY REPORT FOR THE FRG'S PLANNED
INTEGRATED NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER. THE
FEDERAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD COMPLETE THE EXAMINATION
AND GIVE THEIR APPROVAL FOR THE OVERALL CONCEPTUAL
DESIGN OF THE CENTER IN LATE 1977. (REF.B) THE
MINORITY STATES ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO REFUSE
TO ISSUE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION
LICENSES UNTIL THE FIRST PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION
LICENSE FOR THE NATIONAL REPROCESSING CENTER IS
ISSUED. THIS IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE 1980.

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